



# WHAT IS “JESUS-MINISTRY?”

## JESUS-MINISTRY DEFINED

You will see often in this text the phrase “Jesus-ministry.” What do we mean when we use this phrase? Simply, when you read the gospels and observe the works of Christ, this is “Jesus-ministry.” But, Jesus-ministry encapsulates more than Jesus’ ministry while he walked the earth, for we see in the book of Acts this work continued by the early Church. We see it very succinctly depicted and spoken of by Jesus several times in the gospels. The following verses delineate for us His description of Jesus-ministry.

**Luke 4:18,19 (NLT)** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.*

**Matthew 11:4-6 (NLT)** *Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him about what you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him: God blesses those who are not offended by Me.”*

In Jesus’ intercessory prayer to His Heavenly Father for His apostles, and for all those who would become His followers in generations to come, He stated this:

**John 17:18 (NIV)** *As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

Therefore, the mission of the Church (all who are true followers of Jesus Christ) is to continue Jesus’ assignment here on earth as described in Luke 4:18,19 and other verses so succinctly.

The following sections expand on what Jesus-ministry entails and why this powerful ministry should be the normal practice of the Church of Jesus Christ worldwide.

## JESUS-MINISTRY IS ONE OF SALVATION

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*

### “SOZO,” WHAT IT MEANS TO “SAVE” IN JESUS’ KINGDOM

Commentary—the full picture of salvation:

1. The English term “save” in **Luke 19:10** translates the Greek word “sozo.” Various forms of the Greek word “sozo” communicate the full picture of salvation as deliverance, restoration, protection, preservation, healing, and making whole. This helps us understand what Jesus had in mind when He came to minister salvation.

### EXAMPLES OF JESUS MINISTERING “SOZO”

#### 1. Spiritual Salvation (from sin’s penalty and judgment)

**Romans 10:9 (NIV)** *That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

## 2. Demonic Deliverance

**Luke 8:36 (NASB)** *And those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well.*

## 3. Physical Healing

**Mark 10:52 (NASB)** *And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.”*

## JESUS-MINISTRY IS ONE OF RESTORATION

**Luke 19:10 (NIV)** *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT “LOST” MEANS

The English term **lost** in Luke 19:10 is a translation of the Greek word “apollumi.” This is the same word translated **destroy** in John 10:10, where Jesus states: “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and **destroy**. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness” (NLT). The word “apollumi” is translated over twenty-five times in the New Testament with the word **destroy** and over thirty times with the word **lose** or **lost**. The word communicates to *destroy, ruin, render useless, to put to death*.

Once again in John 10:10 we read that Jesus came to *give life in all its fullness*. This is in contrast to Satan, who can and does only steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus’ life and ministry was to give life where Satan had stolen, destroyed, and killed life. The imagery again is that of restoration and recovery.

**NOTE:** Luke 19:10 is translated by prominent American English Bible translations (NKJV, NASB, NIV) as saying that Jesus came to seek and to save (restore, make whole) **what** was lost, or **that which** was lost; not merely **who** was lost. Some English translations (NRSV, ESV) do translate the verse seek and save **who** was lost. I believe that Jesus came to begin the work of restoration that begins with mankind’s relationship with God, but goes beyond that to restore that which was lost in Adam’s sin. This restoration work will be ultimately completed in heaven.

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT WAS “LOST”

In the beginning, God crafted a masterpiece of creation. His original design and handiwork was beautiful and He declared it to be *good* six times. The seventh time He declared it to be *very good*. Imagine a world of self-less love, unity, peace, relational harmony, and joy—no heart-

ache, no sorrow or fear, no shame or condemnation, no disease or death. Envision a world with no emptiness or hopelessness, desperation or despair.

The relationship that God had with mankind was intimate and unobstructed. God’s original design was for men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, family members, and those in authority and under authority to always live in relational harmony. In God’s design these relationships would always be marked by joy, hearts of humility, and hearts of lavish love that live for the benefit of others.

God’s original design, seen in His creation, was lost in Eden’s Garden when Adam and Eve sinned.

### 1. Mankind’s Relationship with God was Lost.

**Genesis 3:8 (NLT)** *When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.*

**Genesis 3:10 (NLT)** *He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”*

**Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)** *It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.*

Instead of the joy found in intimacy with God, there was instead fear, shame, condemnation, and separation. Later in the Scriptures we read of subsequent self-will, disregard, and rebellion toward God that has brought judgment and ruin. Jesus-ministry, at its core, is about restoring the relationship between God and mankind.

This restoration includes eternal life, which means we experientially know God and His Son Jesus Christ. This means we inherit all the spiritual blessings and promises found in relationship with Jesus Christ: freedom from the judgment of eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire, eternally experiencing God and His kingdom of Heaven, living in the fullness of the authority, power, and life of Jesus Christ, entering into the fullness of relationship in and with the Holy Spirit, and recovering true worship of God.

### 2. God’s Original Design for Mankind’s Authority over Satan was Lost.

**Genesis 3:1 (NASB)** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”*



**Genesis 3:4-7 (NASB)** *The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

**Psalms 8:4-6 (NLT)** *What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority. . .*

**Genesis 4:7 (NLT)** *You [Cain] will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.*

Adam was created to rule and govern the earth (Genesis 1:28). He was created in the image of God and he was

given authority over everything that Jesus had made. Satan at this time was under Adam’s authority. Satan, through deception, caused Adam to rebel against God, thus submitting himself to Satan instead of God. Adam handed Satan the keys of authority over mankind and this world (John 12:31). The result has been the destruction of individual lives, families, and the world through the influence of Satan’s kingdom.

In Genesis 4:7, God warned Cain that his jealousy, resentment, rebellion, and anger would be his downfall. God used the word picture of sin crouching at the door, eager to control him. It is noted by some (editors of the Zondervan NASB Study Bible among others) that the Hebrew word for “crouching” in verse seven is the same as an ancient Babylonian word referring to an evil demon crouching. God continues to tell Cain that its desire is for Cain himself. Cain is now agreeing with Satan’s kingdom in his rebellion, disobedience, jealousy, resentment, hatred, and anger. The sin of mankind provides opportunity for Satan’s kingdom of demons to have authority over mankind.

We read throughout all of Scripture, but it is keenly evident in the gospels, that the demonic world has authority over mankind, and, consequently, demons inflict devastation on our world. Jesus came to restore mankind’s authority over Satan and his kingdom (Luke 10:19; Colossians 2:8-10). Jesus-ministry includes exercising authority and power over the demonic, releasing people from demonic authority and dominion, and training people to exercise their authority over the demonic.

**Luke 10:19 (NLT)** *Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.*

**Colossians 2:8-10 (NLT)** *Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*

### **3. God’s Design for the Husband/Wife and Child Relationship was Lost.**

**Genesis 3:12 (NLT)** *The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”*

**Genesis 3:16 (NLT)** *Then he said to the woman, “I will*

*sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”*

Instead of the man and the woman mutually living for the well-being of the other, they deflected personal responsibility, and blamed one another. God’s design is for the husband and wife to serve each other in godly character. After the fall their relationship reflects tension and striving, instead of love and comfort. The man and woman diminish each other.

God’s design was for the husband to love and lead his wife for her well-being and benefit; to serve her in reflection of the character and love of God. The husband should show mercy, kindness, gentleness, and grace to his wife. God’s design for the wife was to love, respect, and honor her husband, with obvious joy in serving him and ministering to his well-being. God intended for the husband and wife (and men and woman in general) to have a relationship of pure harmony.

The previous commentary is similar in the parent and child relationship. One of the marks of the restoration work in preparation of Jesus’ coming is the relationship between parent and child being restored (Malachi 4:6).

**Malachi 4:6 (NLT)** *His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers.*

#### 4. God’s Design for Sibling Relationships was Lost.

**Genesis 4:8 (NLT)** *One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.*

The relationship of siblings and family members was to be one of the great delights of mankind’s existence according to God’s original design. It is easy to see from the world around us that this has been lost. Not only was the character of God lost in sibling relationships, but according to this account in Genesis, the sin of jealousy in Cain led to hatred and then murder.

#### 5. God’s Original Design for Relationship Between Mankind and Creation was Lost

**Genesis 3:17-19 (NLT)** *And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch*



*a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”*

The relationship between God and creation was designed by God to be one of great pleasure and joy. After sin it became one of enmity. Working in God’s creation was part of God’s design for mankind prior to the fall into sin. It was to bring great joy and fulfillment to mankind, now it was cursed and would fight mankind in yielding her fruit. Mankind also lost his sense of stewardship and responsibility for God’s creation.

#### 6. God’s Design for Fullness of Life was Lost to Pain, Disease, and Death.

**Genesis 3:16 (NLT)** *Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. . . .*

**Genesis 4:23 (NLT)** *One day Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me.*

God is a God of life, not disease or death. Physical health and wellness was lost in the Garden at mankind’s fall into sin. You can imagine that God’s design in the birthing of a child was to be of purity and joy for the woman—not agony and pain. God created the human body; as believers, our bodies are the temple of God’s Holy Spirit. Satan delights in diminishing and destroying God’s workmanship through disease.

There is no sickness, disease, or death in heaven. Part of Jesus' ministry here on earth included physical healing. We recognize that Jesus did not heal every person whom he encountered in his earthly ministry. Even the Apostle Paul himself lived with an unhealed physical malady. So even though not all were healed, healing characterized the ministry of Jesus, the apostles, and the early church. Physical healing is part of waging war against Satan's kingdom. Jesus gave His disciples instructions to pray for the sick and to declare "the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 9:2, Luke 10:9). In the book of Matthew, Jesus' death included bringing physical restoration to people from their sicknesses and diseases:

**Matthew 8:16-17 (NLT)** *That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."*

## 7. God's Original Design and Purpose for Our Lives Was Lost

**Genesis 1:28 (NLT)** *Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."*

**Genesis 2:15 (NLT)** *The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.*

**Psalms 139:15-18 (NLT)** *You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!*

**Genesis 3:19 (NLT)** *By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."*

What a different picture is painted in Genesis 3:19 compared to Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:15. There is an entire Old Testament book written to the dire state of mankind and the vanity of life (Ecclesiastes). This was never what God intended. God's original design for mankind is filled with hope, purpose, significance, and fulfillment. Jesus-ministry includes restoring God's original design to individuals, families, churches, and organizations. We see this vividly stated in Ephesians 2:10:

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

## UNDERSTANDING GOD'S HEART FOR YOU

In order to live in the fullness of our salvation, we must begin to have an understanding of God's heart of undying love for us. God loves all mankind, but has poured out his love in intimacy to those who have a saving relationship with him through faith in Jesus Christ and his shed blood. This seems to be an elementary truth, one that is often sidelined as common knowledge. But, living with a vibrant understanding of God's love is rare. Even in the Garden, one of the schemes of Satan was to cause Eve to misconstrue and doubt God's love for her. Absolute confidence in God's love is critical for anyone who wants to move in the faith, hope, and power that marks Jesus-ministry.

*We need a fresh revelation of how God sees us, instead of believing the lies of Satan and his kingdom. The scope of this teaching could never do justice to the many amazing truths of how God sees you, but we will at least begin the process of understanding His love and purpose for each one of us.*

### 1. God Has an Infinite Love For You.

God's love for you is so great that Paul, knowing that it cannot be comprehended, prayed the believers reading his letter would experience it. You are a special object of God's attention and love. You are greatly valued!

**Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)** *And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*



## 2. God Rejoices Over You.

God takes great pleasure in you. He delights in every detail of your life. The Scriptures tell us that God rejoices over His people with such intimate love, that He sings a love song over them.

**Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)** *For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”*

**Psalms 18:19 (NLT)** *He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me.*

**Psalms 35:27 (NASB)** *Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, “The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.”*

**Psalms 149:4 (NLT)** *For the LORD delights in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.*

## 3. God Jealously Protects and Defends You.

Jesus Christ is our advocate, the one who defends and protects us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has destroyed the power of death and condemnation the enemy held over us. He rebukes the enemy on our behalf! We are secure in His love, knowing He will defend us!

**1 John 2:1 (NLT)** *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.*

**Zechariah 3:1-4 (NLT)** *Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. And the LORD said to Satan, “I, the LORD, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire.” Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. So the angel said to the others standing there, “Take off his filthy clothes.” And turning to Jeshua he said, “See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes.”*

**Romans 8:33-34 (NLT)** *Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

## 4. God Has a Sovereign Purpose and Plan for You.

You are not an accident. God created you with purpose, with a design. He created you uniquely, with gifts, skills, personality, and passions to specifically fulfill His purpose for your life. Satan, and his kingdom of death and destruction, seek to rob you of the joy of God's “Original Design” for you. Part of Jesus-ministry includes recovering God's original design and purpose for your life. God's design for you is not random, but specific and purposeful.

**Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)** *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

**Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)** *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)** *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

## 5. God Lavishly Honors You.

God has determined to make you a joint-heir with His Son Jesus Christ. All that belongs to Jesus will belong to you. You have been exalted and seated with Christ in His authority and power. You are regarded as a royal and holy priest in His kingdom. You are a son or daughter of **The King**—you are royalty in an eternal kingdom. You will reign and judge with Jesus Christ!

**Romans 8:16-17 (NLT)** *For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

**1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)** *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

